



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

Raising a happy, healthy horse

While there are many regulations regarding domestic pets in Clark County, very few apply to the care and maintenance of horses. Yet it is vital that the county's estimated 30,000 horse owners understand the basic requirements of horse care.

By their nature, horses are grazing animals and need exercise. While horses require no specific acreage, as a general rule one acre per horse is sufficient. The pasture should be free from rubbish and anything else that might harm the horse.

Mud, mud, mud! It seems mud is inevitable in pastures. Besides being miserable for a horse to get around in, mud can lead to thrush, scratches, lost shoes, and even injuries to tendons and ligaments if very deep or slippery.

There is no perfect recipe for mud management. To find what works for your unique situation, keep in

mind the three ingredients of mud — dirt, water, and stirring — and work to reduce each element.

Minimize stirring by limiting turn-out time, rotating pastures, reducing the number of horses in an area, and exercising horses before they are turned out to pasture. All of these procedures will cut down on the stirring that creates mud bogs.

Providing shelter. A horse needs protection from the wind, rain, and sun. A grove of trees can sometimes be adequate, but a three-sided shelter works better. The back of the structure should face the prevailing wind.

Proper bedding is important. Straw is a traditional choice for bedding because it is inexpensive, warm, and comfortable. However, straw may contain fungal spores that may be harmful to the horse if eaten.

Wood shavings are clean and hygienic, as long as the shavings are dust-free. Rubber matting works really well, but you should also put straw or wood shavings on top, since rubber mats provide no warmth.

The Animal Advisory Board and the Clark County Executive Horse Council are reviewing regulations relating to the care and maintenance of large animals. For details on their future meetings, please contact Linda Moorhead, Code Enforcement and Animal Control Manager, at (360) 397-2375 ext. 4119.★

May 2005

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Wildfire Season is Coming – Are You Ready?

During a press conference on May 12, Commissioner Boldt, the Clark County Fire Chiefs Association, and the Fire Marshal's Office urged citizens to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season by creating defensible space around homes within the wildland/urban interface (WUI) areas.

The WUI includes areas where homes and neighborhoods are built in the woods, making them susceptible to the danger of wildfires. Defensible space is an area around the home, a minimum of 30 feet, where the vegetation has been modified to create an area where the advancement of fire is slowed. This space is where fire crews would make a stand to defend your home against an approaching wildfire.

The three 'R's of creating defensible space are:

- **Remove** – entire plants such as small conifer trees, shrubs near the home
- **Reduce** – plant parts such as tree branches overhanging the house, prune bushes to remove excess growth, keep grass cut short and remove leaf accumulation
- **Replace**—substitute less combustible plants for more hazardous vegetation

Although April was a very wet month, the annual rainfall for our area is still several inches below the average for this time of year. This weather pattern raises concerns for the fire departments. Last month's rainfall allowed vegetation in the WUI to flourish, but this same vegetation will dry out in the summer

and early fall and become very good wildfire fuel.

If you plan to create defensible space and your property contains environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, or steep slopes, you may need to obtain a permit before cutting down any vegetation. For more information, visit the county's [Wildfire Protection](#) Web page.★

10th Annual Community Pride Design Awards

The [Community Pride Design Awards](#) program will begin soliciting nominations for this year's awards by mid-June. The program recognizes outstanding and unique efforts in creating buildings, developments, and civic improvements that have had a positive impact on the community. The awards committee is primarily interested in projects that were completed in calendar year 2004 or in the first half of 2005.

An awards ceremony to recognize the top projects will be held in mid-October. This will be the second year that the program will partner with the Building Industry Association to combine Community Pride awards and Building Excellence awards into one ceremony.

For more information, please contact Kathi Curtis at 397-2375, ext. 4382.★

Contact building inspectors by cell phone

As of May 23, 2005, you can contact your building inspector by cell phone. This improved access to your inspector will allow you to obtain faster responses to basic code questions and



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clarifications on correction notices, but will not affect how inspections are scheduled. Inspection requests will continue to be accepted only online or through the IVR system. Your inspector's cell phone number can be found by visiting our [Web site](#) or by calling the Building Division at (360) 397-2375, ext. 4290. ★

Congratulations!

Mark Hess has been promoted to Lead Combination Inspector. Congratulations Mark!



Stuart Morley has been promoted to Combination Inspector II. Great job Stu!

Duane Marchand has been promoted to Combination Inspector I. Kudos Duane! ★



New Faces

Monika Hennings has accepted a CD specialist position in Customer Service. Prior to joining Clark County, Monika worked as a permit specialist in Lake Elsinore, California for seven years. Monika has earned a professional certificate in Land Use and Environmental Planning and is currently working on her Bachelor's degree in Public Administration.



Patrick Higbie has accepted an OAI position and is now the newest member of Development Services' West Urban Team. Patrick has been a temporary employee in Code Enforcement and Animal Control since September 2004. ★



ComDev in the News

Grow wisely. Clark County's extensively prepared 2004 growth plan should not be recrafted. The Columbian 5-13-05

http://www.columbian.com/05132005/clark_co/275956.cfm

House market turns red-hot in Clark County. The Columbian 5-13-05

http://www.columbian.com/05132005/front_pa/275752.cfm

Growth could grab 30 square miles. The Columbian 5-11-05

http://www.columbian.com/05112005/front_pa/274969.cfm

Pot, not pit bulls, may result in prison. The Columbian 5-11-05

http://www.columbian.com/05112005/front_pa/274977.cfm

Not guilty plea given in case of dogfighting. The Oregonian 5-11-05

http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/1115806037291830.xml&coll=7

Delegation from Atlanta makes stop in Vancouver, The Columbian, 5-7-05

http://www.columbian.com/05072005/clark_co/273719.cfm

B.G. Schools buys 51 acres. The Columbian 4-30-05

http://www.columbian.com/04302005/clark_co/270973.cfm ★

What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county's Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: www.cvttv.org ★

Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at desiree.demoneye@clark.wa.gov. ★